



Press Release: 14 June 2010

Shakespeare's Globe's revival of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* to tour US and UK this autumn

Shakespeare's Globe: 14 August – 2 October
On tour in America: 14 October – 7 November
On tour in England: 16 November – 11 December

Shakespeare's Globe revives its acclaimed 2008 production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* this summer for a run at the Globe, before embarking on an international tour. **Christopher Luscombe's** delightful and humorous production will perform in Los Angeles and New York during the autumn, continuing partnerships formed during the Globe's US tour of *Love's Labour's Lost* last year. The production will return to the UK for performances in Milton Keynes, Norwich, Richmond and Bath. Many of the 2008 cast will return, including **Christopher Benjamin** as Falstaff, **Serena Evans** as Mistress Page, **Sarah Woodward** as Mistress Ford and **Andrew Havill** as Frank Ford.

With its physical gags, linguistic jokes and vivid characters, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* celebrates the foundations of the modern TV sitcom and features many characters from *Henry IV parts 1 and 2*, which also appear in the Globe's theatre season this summer. Christopher Luscombe, once a Shakespeare comic actor himself, takes full advantage of this witty and affable play, directing a production full of irresistible charm – complimented by vibrant designs from Janet Bird and a jaunty score from composer Nigel Hess.

Christopher Benjamin returns to play Falstaff – one of Shakespeare's most famous and much loved characters. Christopher's recent theatre work includes *The Family Reunion* (Donmar Warehouse), *All Mouth* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *A Voyage Around my Father* (Donmar Warehouse and Wyndams Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (National Tour) and *Henry IV Part I* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre).

Serena Evans is best known for her role as Sergeant Dawkins in TV's *The Thin Blue Line*. Her recent stage work includes *Present Laughter* (UK tour), *God of Carnage* (Theatre Royal Bath and tour), *Once in a Lifetime* (National Theatre), and *Candida* (Oxford Stage Company).

Sarah Woodward's recent work includes *Judgement Day* (Almeida), *Rookery Nook* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Present Laughter* (National Theatre), the title role in *Lady Macbeth* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre) and *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare's Globe).

Andrew Havill's stage work includes *Ring Round the Moon* (Playhouse Theatre), *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Theatre Royal Bath and Tour) and *Candida* (Oxford Stage Company). His film work includes *The Broken*, *Sylvia* (with Gwyneth Paltrow) and *The Heart of Me* (with Helena Bonham Carter).

Shakespeare's Globe's Kings and Rogues theatre season includes Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Henry VIII* and *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*. The Globe will present two new plays – *Anne Boleyn* by Howard Brenton and *Bedlam* by Nell Leyshon. In addition to its main stage programme, the Globe's two regional small-scale tours from 2009 return to exchange venue circuits - *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

***The Merry Wives of Windsor* Tour Schedule 2010**

Shakespeare's Globe
14 August – 2 October
Press night Thursday 19 August
Midnight matinee Friday 17 September

Eli and Edyth Broad Stage, Los Angeles, America
14 – 24 October

Michael Schimmel Center for the Performing Arts, New York, America
28 October – 7 November

Milton Keynes Theatre
16 – 20 November

Norwich Theatre Royal
23 – 27 November

Richmond Theatre
30 November – 4 December

Theatre Royal Bath
6 – 11 December

***The Merry Wives of Windsor* cast and creative team:**

Director	Christopher Luscombe
Designer	Janet Bird
Composer	Nigel Hess
Choreographer	Jenny Arnold

Cast confirmed at date of release – Nathan Amzi; Gareth Armstrong; William Belchambers; Christopher Benjamin; Philip Bird; Serena Evans; Peter Gale; Michael Garner; Gregory Gudgeon; Andrew Havill; Jonty Stephens; Sue Wallace; Paul Woodson and Sarah Woodward

Booking:

Phone	020 7401 9919 or 020 7087 7398
In person	Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days) Sundays 10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)
Online	www.shakespeares-globe.org
Tickets	£5.00 - £35.00

Education Events at Shakespeare's Globe:

Setting the Scene (pre-performance) – Tuesdays at 6pm (17 and 24 August, 14, 21 and 28 September)

Talking Theatre (post matinee) – Wednesdays and Saturdays (Wed 25 and Sat 28 August, Sat 11, Wed 15 and Wed 22 September)

Childsplay (matinee only) – Sat 28 August, Sat 11 September and Sat 2 October

Perspective (pre-performance) – Wed 8 September at 6pm

Shakespeare's Globe Access Line 020 7902 1409 or email access@shakespearesglobe.com

Website:

Please go to the Press Room at www.shakespeares-globe.org for recent press releases.

Images are available via the online image library www.globe-images.org/

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